

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the restriction requirement mailed March 9, 2004, applicants elect with traverse to prosecute Group II in the present application. Applicants particularly traverse the restriction between Groups II and IX.

According to the MPEP, where claims can be examined together without undue burden, the Examiner must examine the claims on the merits even though they are directed to independent and distinct inventions. *See*, the MPEP at 803.01. In establishing that an “undue burden” would exist for co-examination of claims, the Examiner must show that examination of the claims would involve substantially different prior art searches, making the co-examination burdensome. To show undue burden resulting from searching difficulties, the Examiner must show that the restricted groups have a separate classification, acquired a separate status in the art, or that searching would require different fields of search (MPEP at § 808.02).

In the present restriction, Groups II and IX are both indicated as classified under Class 435, subclass 7.1. Applicants respectfully submit that a search of the literature for either group will uncover art relevant to the other. Thus, no undue burden exists in the examination of both groups. In the absence of a showing how a search both groups meet the criteria under §808.02, withdrawal of the restriction between these two groups is respectfully requested.

In the present amendment applicants have canceled claims 1-35 and added new claims 36-49. Claims 36-45 are directed to the invention of Group II and claims 46-49 are directed to the invention of Group IX.

The new claims find support throughout the specification. Exemplary support for the claims is as follows. Claim 36 finds support in claim 8, as filed. Claim 37 finds support at page 21, lines 6-16. Claim 38 finds support at page 22, lines 7-17. Claims 39-42 find support at page 31, lines 19-26. Claim 43 finds support at page 33, lines 7-10. Claims 44 and 45 find support at page 37, lines 9-14. Claims 46-49 correspond to claims 10-13, as filed.

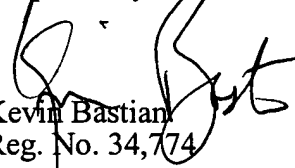
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Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2004

PATENT

CONCLUSION

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin Bastian
Reg. No. 34,774

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
KLB:klb
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